

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01453 241531Z
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UNCLAS ANKARA 1453

USEEC, USOECD, USINFOR FOR IOP/M, IPS/PE,IBS/PN, IEU

BRUSSELS PASS NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, US, TUN OVIP

SUBJ: NIMETZ VISIT: PRESS COVERAGE FEBRUARY 24

REF: ANKARA 1405 (DTG 231601Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY: VERSIONS OF THE SECOND DAY OF DEPARTMENT
COUNSELOR NIMETZ' VISIT TO ANKARA ARE FRONT-PAGE STORIES
IN MOST PAPERS. IN MANY COSES THE REPORT IS INCLUDED IN
STORIES ON THE TOTAL OF TEN FOREIGN DELEGATIONS IN ANKARA
ON FEBURARY 23. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORTING:

--MILLIYET STRESSES THE MESSAGE ALLEGEDLY
CARRIED BY THE NIMETZ DELEGATION THAT TURKEY MUST COME
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 01453 241531Z

TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF BEFORE ITS FOREIGN FINANCING
PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME;

--TERCUMAN SAYS THAT TALKS WILL BE CONTINUED IN
WASHINGTON IN MARCH; AND

--OTHER PAPERS CONTINUE TO REPORT THE ALLEGED

TURKISH DESIRE FOR UPDATING OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGRRMENT (DCA) VIA AN "ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL". END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTING OF NIMETZ DELEGATION'S SECOND DAY IN
ANKARA PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN FEBRUARY 24 PRESS. WITH
FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE STORIES ARE REMARKABLE FOR THEIR
ABSENCE OF DETAIL. A NUMBER OF PAPERS STRESS THAT THE
NIMETZ GROUP WAS "TECHNICAL" AND NOT EMPOWERED TO MAKE
DICEISIONS ON THE TURKISH PROPOSALS. THE PRESS SAYS
NIMETZ WILL REUTRN TO WASHINGTON WITH A REPORT TO PRESENT
TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE.

3. TWO LEFTIST, OFTEN ANTI-US PAPERS, CUMHURIYET AND
SMALL, ANKARA-BASED BARIS, REPEAT THE EARLIER STORY THAT
THE GOT HAS PROPOSED BRINGING THE DCA INTO LINE WITH
CURRENT CONDITIONS THORUGH AN "ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL".
CUMHURIYET ADDS THAT THE GOT WANTS THE LEVEL OF MILITARY
ASSISTANCE DOUBLED.

4. OPPOSITION TERCUMAN REPORTS THAT WHEN THE TURKISH
DELEGATION WAS INFORMED THAT THE DCA MAY BE DELAYED
UNTIL APRIL, THE DELEGATES RESPONDED, "WAITING A LITTLE
LONGER IS NOT A BURDEN FOR US". GOT OFFICIALS, ACCORDING
TO TERCUMAN, BELIEVED THE NIMETZ VISIT WAS USEFUL FIRST
STEP FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-ON MEETING SCHEDULED TO
TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH.
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 01453 241531Z

5. THE NIMETZ VISIT IS THE LEAD STORY IN MILLIYET ON
FEBRUARY 24. IT IS HEADLINED, "THE AMERICAN DELEGATION:
'YOUR AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF IS A CONDITION FOFOREIGN
FINANCING'." JUST OPPOSITE ON THE FRONT PAGE IS A
STORY ON THE VISIT OF LIBYAN LEADER JALLOUD WHICH IS
HEADLINED, "WE'RE READY TO COOPERATE WITHOUT PUTTING
FORWARD ANY CONDITIONS".

6. THE MILLIYET STORY, WRITTEN BY SENIOR POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT NILUFER YALCIN, INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

--THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED TO ISSUE A JOINT
COMMUNIQUE;

--WHEN DISCUSSION BETWEEN EXPERTS COULD NOT REACH
ANY CONCLUSIOONS, NIMETZ AND ELEKDAG BEGAN TO SOLVE
PROBLEMS IN A VERY LIMITED, HIGH-LEVEL SESSION;

--THE MEETING WITH ECEVIT WAS DELAYED UNTIL LATE
EVENING;

--THE TURKS WERE INFORMED BY THE NIMETZ DELEGATION
THAT ASSISTANCE IN FINDING FOREIGN FINANCING WOULD BE
AVAILABLE ONLY AFTER TURKEY REACHES AGREEMENT WITH
THE IMF; AND

--BOTH SIDES DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT
PRODUCTION OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, AND A COMMITTEE WILL
BE FORMED TO LOOK INTO THIS ISSUE.

7. EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE VISIT REPORTED
SEPTEL.
SPIERS

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